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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katharina **Konzett-Stoffl** (Austria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Advancement of women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 15th meetings, on 5, 8 and 11 October 2018, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 51st and 52nd meetings, on 16 and 19 November 2018. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-seventh, sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions (A/73/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/73/263);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/73/266);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying efforts to end obstetric fistula within a generation (A/73/285);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (A/73/294);

[1] A/C.3/73/SR.7, A/C.3/73/SR.8, A/C.3/73/SR.9, A/C.3/73/SR.10, A/C.3/73/SR.15, A/C.3/73/SR.51 and A/C.3/73/SR.52.

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(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/73/301).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 5 October, the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Deputy Executive Director (Management) of the United Nations Population Fund made introductory statements, on which the representatives of the Sudan and Egypt made comments.

5. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made an oral report and responded to the questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Japan, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, Mexico and the Russian Federation.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made an introductory statement and responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives of South Africa, Spain, Colombia, Canada, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Estonia, Australia, Brazil, the European Union, Czechia, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Slovenia, Ireland, the Russian Federation, Nigeria and Eritrea.

7. Also at the 7th meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, also responded to statements made by delegations.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.7/Rev.1 and amendment contained in document A/C.3/73/L.60

8. At its 51st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/73/L.7/Rev.1), which replaced A/C.3/73/L.7 and was submitted by Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, the Netherlands, Paraguay, the Philippines and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Philippines and Belarus made statements.

Action on the amendment contained in document A/C.3/73/L.60

10. At the 51st meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.7/Rev.1 submitted by the Sudan (A/C.3/73/L.60).

11. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan made a statement on the amendment.

12. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Iceland (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand and Norway).

13. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 101 to 19, with 34 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iraq, Israel, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America, Yemen.

Against:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam.

14. After the vote, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Burundi, and a statement was made by the representative of the Sudan.

Action on draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.7/Rev.1 as a whole

15. At its 51st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.7/Rev.1 (see para. 37, draft resolution I).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Austria, Hungary and the United States of America made statements.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.20/Rev.1

17. At its 52nd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula" (A/C.3/73/L.20/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.20 and was submitted by China, Ecuador, Mongolia, Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Myanmar and Paraguay. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At the same meeting, the representatives of Senegal, on behalf of the Group of African States, and the United States made statements.

19. Also at its 52nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.20/Rev.1 (see para. 37, draft resolution II).

20. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.21/Rev.1

21. At its 52nd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment" (A/C.3/73/L.21/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.21 and was submitted by Belize, Benin, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Lebanon, Lesotho, Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Paraguay, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

22. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement.

23. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement and orally proposed amendments to operative paragraphs 8 and 11 of the draft resolution.[2]

24. Also at the 52nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (also on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom and Uruguay), Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), France (also on behalf of the Netherlands) and South Africa.

25. At the same meeting, the representatives of France and the Netherlands responded to the request by the Chair of the Committee (Afghanistan) for clarification in the light of the amendments orally proposed by the United States.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 8 by a recorded vote of 88 to 44, with 25 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bhutan, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nepal, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

27. Before the vote, statements were made by the Russian Federation, Canada and Australia, and statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of

[2] See A/C.3/73/SR.52.

Egypt, the United Kingdom, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries) and Libya. After the vote, the representatives of Pakistan and Iraq made statements in explanation of vote.

28. Also at the 52nd meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 11 by a recorded vote of 98 to 30, with 30 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, Egypt, Guyana, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Cambodia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Mauritania, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

29. Before the vote, the representative of New Zealand made a statement.

Action on draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.21/Rev.1 as a whole

30. At its 52nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.21/Rev.1 (see para. 37, draft resolution III).

31. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States made a statement. After the adoption, statements were made by the representative of France and the observer of the Holy See.

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.23/Rev.1

32. At its 52nd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation" (A/C.3/73/L.23/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.23 and was submitted by China, Ecuador, Lebanon, Monaco, Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African

States), Paraguay, the Philippines and Turkey. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

33. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Group of African States).

34. Also at its 52nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.23/Rev.1 (see para. 37, draft resolution IV).

35. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States made a statement. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mexico.

E. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

36. At its 52nd meeting, on 19 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the documents considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 38).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

37. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children, which constitutes a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation and abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development and which requires (a) the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes partnerships and measures to prevent such trafficking, to prosecute and punish the traffickers, to identify, protect and support the victims of such trafficking and to intensify international cooperation and (b) a criminal justice response proportionate to the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime [1] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, [3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child [6] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[7] and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[8] as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which provides an internationally agreed definition of the crime of human trafficking aimed at the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of victims and the prosecution of the perpetrators,

Welcoming the adoption of the resolution entitled "Establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime and the Protocols thereto" at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 15 to 19 October 2018,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.

Welcoming also the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[9] adopted by the General Assembly at its high-level meeting during the seventy-second session, in which Member States reiterated, in the strongest possible terms, the importance of strengthening collective action to end human trafficking,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of human trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[10]

Recalling the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of human trafficking in order to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims and prosecute the perpetrators,

Reaffirming the commitments made by world leaders at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including human trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour; and the ending of abuse, exploitation, human trafficking, all forms of violence against and torture of children,

Recognizing the importance of a revitalized global partnership to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the implementation of the goals and targets related to ending violence against women and girls and human trafficking, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of Alliance 8.7 and of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children,

Taking note with appreciation of the conclusion of the intergovernmental negotiations for a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which addresses, inter alia, the issue of human trafficking in the context of international migration, and welcomes the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018,

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to combat human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children, including the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010,

Recognizing the urgency of combating human trafficking in all its forms, including for the purpose of forced or compulsory labour, including trafficking of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and of the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203) of the International Labour Organization,

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[9] Resolution 72/1.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Welcoming, in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session,[11] the commitment of Governments to implement comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that integrate a human rights and sustainable development perspective, including in raising public awareness on the issue of human trafficking, and to ensure that the rights and specific needs of women and girls subjected to human trafficking are addressed in national and international plans, strategies and responses,

Noting with appreciation the efforts, including of the human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, other relevant special procedures mandate holders of the Council involved in human trafficking issues, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the crime of human trafficking, and encouraging them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Noting the relevant contributions of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[12] and her work in integrating a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout her mandate, in relation to the issue of human trafficking,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[13] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States to exercise due diligence to prevent human trafficking, to investigate and punish perpetrators of human trafficking and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so may violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, to both developed and developing countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and recognizing that human trafficking disproportionately affects women and girls and that men and boys are also victims of human trafficking, including for sexual exploitation and for the purpose of organ removal,

Highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, into all anti-trafficking efforts, and recognizing that women and girls are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced labour and other forms of exploitation,

Recognizing that pervasive gender inequality, poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender-based violence, discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, marginalization and persistent demand are among the underlying causes that make women and girls vulnerable to human trafficking,

Recognizing also the need to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand, which fosters all forms of

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[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 7* (E/2018/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A, resolution 26/8.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to human trafficking,

Recognizing further the role that men and boys can play as agents of change in addressing the harmful impact of gender stereotypes and negative social norms and in preventing violence against women and human trafficking, and underlining the need to educate and engage men and boys for this purpose,

Recognizing the heightened vulnerability to trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, including in conflict and post-conflict environments, natural disasters and other emergency environments, as well as the devastating consequences for women and girls in such circumstances, and noting in this regard the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change resulting from the Nansen Initiative, while recognizing that not all States are participating in them,

Recognizing also that in armed conflict, human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced marriage and labour exploitation can be prevalent, and expressing deep concern over its negative impacts on victims of human trafficking,

Recognizing further the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration documents, in order to lower the risk of women and girls of being subjected to human trafficking and to help to identify victims of human trafficking,

Recognizing that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls and to protecting and assisting the victims of human trafficking remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt and implement adequate legislation and other measures and to continue improving the collection of reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts and other relevant factors and of statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing also that further work is required both to better understand the link between migration and human trafficking and to develop more effective responses to eliminate the risk of human trafficking in the migration process in order to, inter alia, further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the use of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, for the purpose of recruiting for the exploitation of the prostitution of others, including for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, including sexual abuse material, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as for forced marriage and forced labour, while acknowledging the role that information and communications technologies can play in reducing the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, including by empowering women and children to report such abuses,

Recognizing the potential of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, to prevent and combat human trafficking, in particular trafficking in women and children, and to assist victims,

Concerned about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international standards,

Noting with concern that women and girls are also vulnerable to the risk of human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal, and in this regard taking note of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 25/1 of 27 May 2016, entitled "Preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal", adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session,[14]

Recognizing that victims of human trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel human trafficking,

Noting with concern that some of the demand fostering sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and the illegal removal of organs is met by human trafficking, and recognizing that human trafficking is fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fosters all forms of exploitation,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of human trafficking, owing to pervasive and persistent gender inequality, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with human trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of the violations and abuses of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Taking note of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted in April 2015,[15] which expresses the importance of implementing a victim-oriented approach to prevent and counter all forms of human trafficking for the purpose of exploitation, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to address the problem of human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, recovery, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 10* (E/2016/30), chap. I, sect. D.

[15] Resolution 70/174, annex.

concern for the security and privacy of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all relevant actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[16] which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the information submitted by Member States and United Nations entities on measures and activities undertaken to combat trafficking in women and girls, and urges Member States and United Nations entities that have not done so to submit the requested information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;[17]

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against human trafficking, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying, and States parties to implement, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocols thereto[18] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[19] as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)[20] and the Protocol thereto, the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81),[21] the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),[22] the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111),[23] the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[24] the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),[25] the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181),[26] the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[27] and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[28] and the activities outlined therein;

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[16] A/73/263.
[17] A/73/171 and A/HRC/38/45.
[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.
[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[20] Ibid., vol. 39, No. 612.
[21] Ibid., vol. 54, No. 792.
[22] Ibid., vol. 120, No. 1616.
[23] Ibid., vol. 362, No. 5181.
[24] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.
[25] Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.
[26] Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.
[27] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.
[28] Resolution 64/293.

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prevent and address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible, and encourages Member States to strengthen cooperation among all relevant actors to identify and disrupt illicit financial flows stemming from trafficking in women and girls;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome document of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and calls for its effective implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building, by the United Nations and the international community;

9. *Encourages* the Commission on the Status of Women to consider addressing the needs of, inter alia, women and girls subjected to human trafficking at its sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions, within the framework of the priority themes;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, in the context of the need to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

12. *Welcomes* the continued focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ending violence against women and girls and to increasing women's access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women and girls, which will contribute to the efforts to combat human trafficking;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to prevent and address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

14. *Takes note of* the basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons;[29]

15. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation and leadership in society, including through education, economic empowerment and promoting an increase in the number of women assuming decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors, to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked, and, in that regard, to improve the collection and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to inform such measures;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate preventive measures to address the underlying causes as well as risk factors that increase vulnerability to human trafficking, including poverty, gender inequality, gender stereotypes and

[29] A/69/269, annex.

negative social norms, including discrimination and violence against women and girls, including impunity for such violence, and the persistent demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of human trafficking, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for exploitation, including in prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation, with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and civil measures;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to human trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence, inter alia, that perpetuated by traffickers in digital spaces, and to prevent the trafficking of affected women and girls through all such national, regional and international initiatives;

18. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

19. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to human trafficking continue to take into account the specific needs of women and girls and their participation in and contribution to all phases of preventing and responding to human trafficking, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation;

20. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on human rights, gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns carried out in collaboration with civil society and the private sector to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including awareness-raising campaigns against human trafficking and slavery, including modern slavery, targeted at groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, as well as at those who may fuel the demand that contributes to human trafficking;

21. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in the fulfilment of their mandates;

22. *Urges* Governments to strengthen measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions, including legislative measures and other relevant policies and programmes, and to develop age-appropriate educational and training programmes and policies aimed at preventing sex tourism and human trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote their global campaign urging travellers to support the fight against human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and girls;

24. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the challenges presented by new methods of recruiting victims of human trafficking, such as the misuse of the Internet by human traffickers, in particular for recruiting children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of human trafficking and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

25. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,[30] to address the problem of human trafficking through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, data disaggregated by sex and age, specific data collection and other technical capacities and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from human trafficking, including for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of human trafficking as it affects women and girls;

26. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of human trafficking, recognizing its increasing occurrence for the purpose of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with human trafficking, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with the due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of human trafficking in their custody;

27. *Urges* Governments, in accordance with their respective legal systems, to take all appropriate measures, including through policies and legislation, to ensure that victims of human trafficking are protected from prosecution or punishment for acts those victims have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of having been subjected to human trafficking and that the victims do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with

[30] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, the Agreement on the Cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues, the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

national policies, victims of human trafficking from being prosecuted or punished as a direct consequence of their illegal entry or residence;

28. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, and survivors of human trafficking to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to anti-trafficking policies and measures, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, underlying causes, factors and trends in human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and girls, and to include data on victims of human trafficking disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to cooperate with international, regional and national mechanisms to combat human trafficking, in consultation with Governments, relevant treaty bodies, special procedures, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other sources, including victims of human trafficking or their representatives, as appropriate;

30. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, from within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of human trafficking, particularly trafficking in women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to human trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that human trafficking is a serious crime;

31. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of human trafficking, including sexual and reproductive health-care services that include affordable treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, free of stigma and discrimination, as well as comprehensive information and voluntary counselling, and to take measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims in ways that protect their privacy and identity;

32. *Also calls upon* Governments to promote the empowerment of women and girls, including survivors of human trafficking, in all stages of humanitarian response and to consider providing adequate access to redress;

33. *Encourages* Governments, in line with their obligations under international law, to prevent, combat and eradicate human trafficking in the context of international migration, including by identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking, and to cooperate with relevant stakeholders to undertake or strengthen campaigns to inform migrants, including migrant women, of the risks associated with human trafficking;

34. *Strongly urges* Governments to ensure coherence between the laws on and measures responding to migration, labour and human trafficking to protect the human rights of migrant women and girls throughout the migration and employment process as well as the repatriation process, when applicable, and to provide effective protection against human trafficking;

35. *Invites* States, together with relevant United Nations entities, to undertake further research into the links between migration and human trafficking to guide the development of age- and gender-sensitive policies and programmes that address the vulnerability of women and girl migrants;

36. *Encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

37. *Invites* the business sector to consider the adoption of ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster human trafficking;

38. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of human trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims in ways that protect their privacy and identity;

39. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of human trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers, health service providers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

40. *Invites* Member States to provide training for law enforcement and border control officials, as well as medical personnel, in identifying potential cases of human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal;

41. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of women and girls subjected to human trafficking and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear and with due regard for the protection of their privacy and their identity, and are available, when required, to the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

42. *Also invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy disposition of cases of human trafficking and, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating human trafficking;

43. *Further invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster human trafficking;

44. *Encourages* Governments to develop and implement strategies that promote safe access to media and to information and communications technologies in order to prevent and eradicate trafficking in women and girls, including increasing women's and girls' digital literacy and access to information;

45. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women

and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of human trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of persons subjected to human trafficking and the services available to them;

46. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels, and in this regard takes note of the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat human trafficking;

47. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

48. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and to provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officials and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims of human trafficking;

49. *Calls upon* Governments, and encourages relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel about the potential risks that victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, face of being subjected to human trafficking;

50. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[31] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[31] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[32] to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the respective committees, as applicable;

51. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery and to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report that compiles information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of human trafficking and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, victim-centred and gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address human trafficking, including in the prosecution of traffickers and protection of victims.

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[31] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[32] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

Draft resolution II
Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007, 63/158 of 18 December 2008, 65/188 of 21 December 2010 and 67/147 of 20 December 2012 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula and its resolutions 69/148 of 18 December 2014 and 71/169 of 19 December 2016 on the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[4] and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance[5] and the 2005 World Summit,[6] as well as those made in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[7]

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] which marks its seventieth anniversary in 2018, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10] recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[11] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[11] and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those conventions and the optional protocols thereto,[12]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[13] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that intensified national ownership and leadership, political commitment and scaled up national capacity are urgently needed to accelerate progress towards the elimination of fistula, including by implementing strategies to prevent new cases and treating all existing cases with special attention paid to countries with the highest maternal mortality and morbidity levels,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 70/1.

[8] Resolution 217 A (III).

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[11] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; resolution 66/138, annex; and resolution 63/117, annex.

[13] A/73/285.

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and forced marriage, violence against young women and girls, sociocultural barriers, marginalization, illiteracy and gender inequality as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Stressing also that obstetric fistula can be a cause of devastating lifelong morbidity if left untreated, with severe medical, social, psychological and economic consequences, that approximately 90 per cent of women who develop fistula deliver stillborn babies and that misperceptions about its cause often result in stigma and ostracism,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early childbearing increases the risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery and entails a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing, and limited access to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, specifically timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further that adolescent girls, in particular those who live in poverty or who are marginalized, are at particular risk of maternal death and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, and concerned that the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19 in many low- and middle-income countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth and that women aged 30 and older are at increased risk of developing complications and of dying during childbirth,

Recognizing that lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, especially emergency obstetric services, including in humanitarian settings, remains among the leading causes of obstetric fistula, leading to ill health and death for women and girls of childbearing age in many regions of the world, and that a dramatic and sustainable scaling-up of quality treatment and health-care services, including high quality emergency obstetric services, and of the number of trained, competent fistula surgeons and midwives is needed to significantly reduce maternal and newborn mortality and to eradicate obstetric fistula,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula and efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula should be underpinned by, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against and marginalization of women and girls, in particular those who are facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which often result in reduced access to education and nutrition, compromising their physical and mental health and well-being and the enjoyment of their human rights and the opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and often in their being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and abuse, violence and harmful practices, which can increase the risk of obstetric fistula,

Deeply concerned also about the situation of women and girls living with or recovering from obstetric fistula, who are often neglected and stigmatized, which may lead to negative effects on their mental health, resulting in depression and suicide, and are driven deeper into poverty and marginalization,

Recognizing the need to raise awareness among men and adolescent boys and, in this context, to fully engage men and community leaders as strategic partners and allies in the efforts to address and eliminate obstetric fistula,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community, the private sector and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula led by the United Nations Population Fund, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Deeply concerned that, as the global Campaign to End Fistula completes its fifteenth anniversary, while some progress has been made, significant challenges remain that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Deeply concerned also about the insufficient resources for addressing obstetric fistula in high-burden countries, compounded by the low levels of development assistance for maternal and newborn health, which have declined in recent years, and the substantial need for additional resources and support for the global Campaign to End Fistula and for national and regional initiatives dedicated to improving maternal health and eliminating obstetric fistula,

Noting the Secretary-General's revised Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030), undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies that aim for the highest attainable standards of health and well-being, physical, mental and social, at every age, ending maternal and newborn mortality, which is preventable, and noting that this can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Sustainable Development Goals and the global Campaign to End Fistula, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, finance, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health, in close coordination with Member States, based on their needs and priorities, and in this regard welcoming further the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments made by Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and recognizes that the efforts to end obstetric fistula within a decade will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, gender inequality, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, early childbearing and child, early and forced marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

3. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and

Development, the Beijing Platform for Action[14] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring universal access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing women's empowerment, knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to high-quality appropriate prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula and the reduction of health inequities, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure equitable coverage and timely access, by means of national plans, policies and programmes, to health-care services, in particular emergency obstetric and newborn care, skilled birth attendance, obstetric fistula treatment and family planning, that is financially affordable, accessible, and culturally sensitive, especially in rural and the most-remote areas;

5. *Further calls upon* States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, including age-appropriate sex education, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order, inter alia, to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage, including in rural and remote areas, is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the elimination of obstetric fistula within a decade, which can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and leave no one behind;

8. *Urges* the international community to provide and enhance the necessary resources and capacity-building, upon the request of Member States, in order to treat fistula cases through surgery, leading to the reintegration of affected women and girls into their communities, with appropriate psychosocial, medical and economic support to restore their well-being and dignity;

9. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks in the public and private sectors, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies to support national efforts and institutional capacity-building to end obstetric fistula and to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas and the poorest urban areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, including the World Health Organization, in the global Campaign to End Fistula in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres and, where necessary, national centres,

[14] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

11. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress to improve maternal health by addressing sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, including midwives, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health-care systems that provide universal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[7]

12. *Urges* the international community to address the shortage and inequitable distribution of doctors, surgeons, midwives, nurses and other health-care workers trained in life-saving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

13. *Commends* the commemoration by the international community of 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula and the decision to continue to use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness, intensify actions and mobilize support towards ending obstetric fistula;

14. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to end obstetric fistula within a decade by:

(a) Redoubling their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

(b) Making greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, and providing support for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as investments in referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care, with functional quality control and monitoring mechanisms in place for all areas of service delivery;

(c) Supporting the training of doctors and surgeons, nurses and other health-care workers in life-saving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal and newborn mortality, including training on fistula prevention, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) Ensuring universal access through national policies, plans and programmes that make maternal and newborn health-care services, particularly family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and obstetric fistula treatment, financially accessible and affordable, including in rural and remote areas and among the poorest women and girls through, where appropriate, the establishment and distribution of health-care facilities and trained medical personnel, collaboration with the transport sector for affordable transport options, support for developing and maintaining infrastructure to improve maternal

and newborn health-care services and to strengthen the capacity for surgery, the promotion of and support for community-based solutions and the provision of incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health-care professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) Developing, implementing, following up on and supporting national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula within a decade by developing further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to maternal mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, which is preventable and treatable, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services, and, within countries, incorporating into all sectors of national budgets policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor women and girls and those in vulnerable situations;

(f) Establishing or strengthening, as appropriate, a national task force for obstetric fistula, with a lead governmental entity, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula, including partnering with in-country efforts, to increase surgical capacity and to promote universal access to essential and life-saving surgery;

(g) Strengthening the capacity of health-care systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and encouraging communication among fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fundraising and the application of relevant medical standards, including consideration of the use of the World Health Organization manual entitled *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*, which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

(h) Mobilizing funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services, including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women's and children's well-being and survival and to prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes, and also to ensure access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again in order to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) Increasing national budgets and harnessing domestic resources for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases, and for strengthening the capacity of health-care systems to provide the essential services needed in this regard;

(j) Ensuring that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls whose conditions are deemed incurable or inoperable, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning, socioeconomic empowerment, social protection and

psychosocial services, for as long as needed, through, inter alia, skills development, family and community support and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment, stigma, ostracism and economic and social exclusion, and developing linkages with civil society organizations and women's and girls' empowerment programmes so as to help to achieve this goal;

(k) Empowering fistula survivors to make informed decisions about their lives and to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival, and supporting the exercise of their voice, agency and leadership;

(l) Accelerating efforts to improve the health of women and girls globally, with an increased focus on social determinants that affect their well-being and that include the provision of universal access to quality education for women and girls, economic empowerment, with access to microcredit, savings and microfinancing, legal reforms, the promotion and support of their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, social initiatives, including legal literacy to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination, child, early and forced marriage and early pregnancy;

(m) Educating individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increasing awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants and midwives, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(n) Enhancing the participation of men and adolescent boys in the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula and further strengthening their involvement as partners, including in the global Campaign to End Fistula;

(o) Strengthening awareness-raising and advocacy, including through the media, to effectively reach families and communities with key messages on fistula prevention and treatment and social reintegration;

(p) Strengthening research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, and their recording in a national register, and by acknowledging obstetric fistula as a nationally notifiable condition, triggering immediate reporting, tracking and follow-up for the purpose of guiding the development and implementation of maternal health programmes and ending fistula within a decade;

(q) Strengthening research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and for fistula and routine reviews of maternal deaths and near-miss cases as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems;

(r) Improving data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications, so as to address the challenges of improving maternal health;

(s) Providing essential health-care services, equipment and supplies, education, skills training and income-generating projects and support to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

15. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, through the global Campaign to End Fistula, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and to commit themselves to continued efforts to improve maternal and newborn health, with the aim of eliminating obstetric fistula globally within a decade;

16. *Requests* the global Campaign to End Fistula to develop a road map that will accelerate action to end obstetric fistula within a decade, towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, including for enhancing financial resources for interventions at the local, subnational, national, regional and international levels, in order to support countries and relevant United Nations organizations in the prevention, treatment and care of obstetric fistula;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report with specific updated statistics and disaggregated data on obstetric fistula and the challenges faced by Member States in implementing the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution III
Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009, 65/187 of 21 December 2010, 67/144 of 20 December 2012, 69/147 of 18 December 2014 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, as well as its resolution 71/170 of 19 December 2016 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and noting that 2018 marks its seventieth anniversary,

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[2] and noting that 2018 marks its twenty-fifth anniversary,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 38/5 of 5 July 2018, entitled "Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts",[3]

Taking note of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-first session[4] and Commission resolution 61/1 of 24 March 2017 on preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace,[5]

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[6] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[8]

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[9] the Beijing Declaration[10] and Platform for Action,[11] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[12] and the outcomes of their review conferences, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[13]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/73/53), chap. VI, sect. A.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7* (E/2017/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[5] Ibid., sect. D.

[6] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[8] Ibid., vols. 1577, 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[9] Resolution 48/104.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[11] Ibid., annex II.

[12] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] Resolution 61/295, annex.

Recalling the commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, contained in Sustainable Development Goal 5, in particular target 5.2,[14] and taking into account the commitment to leave no one behind,

Deeply concerned about violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce stereotypes and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates, and impairs their full enjoyment of, all human rights,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women, seriously violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls and constitutes a major impediment to their full, equal and effective participation in society, as well as economic and political life,

Bearing in mind that sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in educational institutions and the workplace, as well as in digital contexts, leads to a hostile environment, which has a further negative impact on women and girls in the enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities, has negative physical and mental health consequences for the victims and may negatively affect their families,

Recognizing the particular risk of sexual harassment faced by women and girls who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

Acknowledging that sexual harassment may be committed against girls who are working in accordance with national legislation or under other circumstances, while condemning child labour in all its forms, and reaffirming Member States' obligations in accordance with international law to protect children, including from economic exploitation,

Recognizing that women and girls are frequently subjected to violence, including sexual harassment, at work and that women and girls face increased risks of violence, including sexual harassment, in particular contexts, such as when working alone, when working in male-dominated workplaces, when working outside the normal working hours or when working in the same place where they live, bearing in mind the large number of women and girls worldwide who have reported being victims of sexual harassment in their workplace, and concerned that, owing to underreporting, the actual number may be much greater,

Stressing the need to change social norms that condone violence against women and girls in the workplace, including through, but not limited to, training and awareness-raising campaigns conducted in the workplace, associated with a change in attitudes and increased knowledge about sexual harassment, particularly among men and boys,

Deeply concerned that school-related violence against girls, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, such as violence perpetrated by school staff, including teachers, and other pupils, continues to deter girls from accessing and pursuing an education and, in many cases, the transition to

[14] See resolution 70/1.

and completion of secondary education, and that these risks may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school,

Underscoring that often lack of information and awareness, fear of reprisals, persisting impunity, insufficient recourse for violence against women and girls and negative social norms including when leading to shame or stigma, as well as negative economic consequences, such as, inter alia, loss of livelihood or reduced income, prevent many women and, as applicable, girls from reporting or acting as witnesses and from seeking redress and justice in cases of sexual harassment,

Deeply concerned about all acts of violence, including sexual harassment, against women and girls involved in political and public life, including women in leadership positions, journalists and other media workers and human rights defenders,

Recognizing that the growing impact of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, in digital contexts, especially on social media, its impunity and the lack of preventive measures and remedies underline the need for action by Member States, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, and that such violence may include stalking, death threats and threats of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as related trends against women and girls in digital contexts, such as trolling, cyberbullying and other forms of cyberharassment, including unwanted verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature with a view to discrediting women and girls and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them,

Acknowledging the importance of combating trafficking in persons in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, and in this regard stressing the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[15] as well as of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[16]

Emphasizing that the lack or inadequacy of documentation, research and data, including disaggregated data, on sexual harassment against women and girls impedes efforts to design and implement measures, including, where appropriate, policies and legislation, to prevent and eliminate this form of violence,

Stressing that laws addressing violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, are often of limited scope, that those addressing sexual harassment do not cover many workplaces, such as those of domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and that gaps need to be addressed,

Stressing also that, while the obligation and the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with the State, employers and education providers have the primary responsibility to take measures to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and at educational institutions, respectively,

Stressing further that States, employers and education providers should take immediate, appropriate corrective action after sexual harassment has occurred by holding perpetrators to account and providing access to timely and appropriate remedies and protection for victims and witnesses, bearing in mind that victims of sexual harassment may be subjected to further discrimination or reprisals,

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[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[16] Resolution 64/293.

Recognizing the increase in public awareness and advocacy on sexual harassment, and stressing the need to accelerate government action to tackle sexual harassment,

Highlighting the crucial role that educational and awareness-raising programmes, policies and legislation play in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment against women and girls,

Stressing the need to fully engage men and boys as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment,

Recognizing the critical contribution of family members in combating violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, by, inter alia, providing for a supportive environment for the empowerment of all women and girls, and that in preventing such violence the family can play an important role,

1. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against all women and girls, including sexual harassment, recognizing that it is an impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to the full realization of their human rights;

2. *Acknowledges* that sexual harassment is a form of violence and a violation and abuse of human rights that is likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual, economic or social harm or suffering;

3. *Stresses* that sexual harassment encompasses a continuum of unacceptable and unwelcome behaviours and practices of a sexual nature that may include, but are not limited to, sexual suggestions or demands, requests for sexual favours and sexual, verbal or physical conduct or gestures, that are or might reasonably be perceived as offensive or humiliating;

4. *Urges* States to condemn violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, and reaffirms that they should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating violence against women as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[9]

5. *Calls upon* States to address discrimination based on multiple and intersecting factors, which places women and girls at greater risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to take appropriate action to empower and protect them as well as achieve their full enjoyment of human rights without discrimination;

6. *Notes* that efforts by civil society organizations in eliminating violence against women and girls are complementary to those of Governments, and in this regard urges States to support, where possible, non-State-led initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and at preventing, responding to and protecting women and girls from sexual harassment;

7. *Encourages* national legislative authorities and political parties, as appropriate, to adopt codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms, or revise existing ones, stating zero tolerance by these legislative authorities and political parties for sexual harassment, intimidation and any other form of violence against women in politics;

8. *Urges* States to take effective action to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment against women and girls and to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors, including by:

(a) Designing and implementing appropriate domestic policies that are aimed at transforming discriminatory social attitudes and social and cultural patterns of conduct that condone violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, with a view to preventing and eliminating, in all public and private spheres, discrimination, gender stereotypes, negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours, and unequal power relations by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys and that underlie and perpetuate male domination;

(b) Implementing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, effective violence prevention and response activities in schools and communities, educating children from a young age regarding the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect, and designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support gender equality, respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour;

(c) Engaging men and boys in challenging gender stereotypes and negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that underlie and perpetuate such violence and in developing and implementing measures that reinforce non-violent actions, attitudes and values, and encouraging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, to take an active part and become their strategic partners and allies in efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;

(d) Developing policies and programmes with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk-reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

(e) Developing, adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation and policies that address the issue of sexual harassment in a comprehensive manner by, inter alia, prohibiting and considering, where appropriate, criminalizing sexual harassment, exercising due diligence by taking protective and preventive measures, ensuring appropriate complaints mechanisms and reporting procedures, as well as accountability and access to effective, timely and appropriate remedies, including through adequate enforcement by the police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and, where applicable, criminal sanctions in order to eliminate impunity and avoid revictimization;

(f) Accelerating efforts to develop, review and strengthen inclusive and gender-responsive policies, including by allocating adequate resources, to address the structural and underlying causes of sexual harassment against women and girls, to overcome gender stereotypes and negative social norms, to encourage the media to examine the impact of gender-role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, that foster gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and inequalities, to promote zero tolerance for such violence and to remove the stigma of being a victim and survivor of violence, thus creating an enabling and accessible

environment where women and girls can easily report incidents of violence and make use of the services available, including protection and assistance programmes;

(g) Taking measures to ensure that all officials, including those in leadership positions, responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing, adequate and gender- and culturally sensitive training to be aware of gender-specific needs, as well as of the underlying causes and short- and long-term impact of sexual harassment;

(h) Removing barriers, including political, legal, cultural, social, economic, institutional and religious ones, preventing women's full, equal and effective participation in leadership and political and other decision-making positions, taking into account that promoting women to leadership positions may significantly reduce the risk of sexual harassment;

(i) Taking measures to ensure that all workplaces are free from discrimination and exploitation, violence, and sexual harassment and bullying and that they address discrimination and violence against women and girls, as appropriate, through such measures as regulatory and oversight frameworks and reforms, collective agreements, codes of conduct, including appropriate disciplinary measures, protocols and procedures, and referral of cases of violence to health services for treatment and to police for investigation, as well as through awareness-raising and capacity-building, in collaboration with employers, unions and workers, including through workplace services and flexibility for victims and survivors;

(j) Taking measures to improve the safety of girls at and on the way to and from school, including by creating a safe and violence-free environment by improving infrastructure, such as transportation, providing hygienic, separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments and adopting policies to prevent, address and prohibit sexual harassment through all appropriate measures;

9. *Also urges* States to take effective action to protect victims of all forms of violence, including sexual harassment, including by:

(a) Providing relevant, comprehensive and victim-centred legal protection to support and assist victims of violence, including sexual harassment, in a gender-sensitive manner, including victim and witness protection from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence, within the framework of their national legal systems, including, as appropriate, legislative or other measures throughout the criminal and civil justice system as appropriate, paying particular attention to women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(b) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all victims and survivors of all forms of violence, including sexual harassment, that are adequately resourced, that are, when possible, in a language that they understand and in which they can communicate and that include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, such as the police and the justice sector, as well as providers of legal aid services, health services, shelters, medical and psychological assistance, counselling services and protection, and, in cases of girl victims, ensuring that such services, programmes and responses take into account the best interests of the child;

(c) Establishing and/or strengthening law enforcement, health and social workers' and counsellors' response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect and respond to the needs of victims of

violence, including sexual harassment, to identify acts of violence and to prevent their recurrence or further acts of violence and physical and psychological harm, ensuring that services are responsive to the survivors' needs, including by providing access to female health-care providers, police officers and counsellors if requested, and ensuring and maintaining the privacy of victims and the confidentiality of their reporting;

10. *Encourages* States, in efforts to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment, to work in partnership with the private sector and civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations and trade, labour and other professional unions, as well as other relevant stakeholders;

11. *Urges* States to ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[12] the Beijing Platform for Action[11] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

12. *Calls upon* States to take necessary measures to ensure that employers in all sectors are held accountable when they fail to abide by laws and regulations addressing sexual harassment, where they exist;

13. *Also calls upon* States to prevent, address and prohibit violence, including sexual harassment, against women and girls in public and political life, including women in leadership positions, journalists and other media workers and human rights defenders, including through practical steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence, and to combat impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence and threats, including in digital contexts, are promptly brought to justice and held accountable through impartial investigations;

14. *Further calls upon* States to encourage digital technology companies, including Internet service providers and digital platforms, to strengthen or adopt positive measures with a view to eliminating violence and sexual harassment, including sexual harassment in digital contexts;

15. *Encourages* States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant parameters, including, where appropriate, administrative data from the police, the health sector, the judiciary and other relevant sectors, to consider developing methodologies to collect data on all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, in, inter alia, digital contexts, in order to monitor all forms of such violence, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and geographical location, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to effectively review

and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and the confidentiality of the victims;

16. *Urges* the international community to fulfil its commitment to supporting developing countries, particularly African countries, the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress on, inter alia, efforts to address violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment;

17. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality in order to enhance international efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

18. *Calls upon* States to promote the full and effective participation of women and, as appropriate, girls in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and other initiatives aimed at preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment;

19. *Stresses* the need to take necessary measures to ensure that no individual working within the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds, programmes and entities, should be involved in sexual harassment, too often perpetrated against those affected by humanitarian crises, and recognizes the efforts of the United Nations system in this regard;

20. *Encourages* humanitarian assistance agencies and non-governmental organizations to adopt and implement policies to prevent, address and prohibit sexual harassment within their organizations;

21. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

22. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's Global Database on Violence against Women, expresses its appreciation to all those States that have provided the Database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the Database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the Database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

23. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment;

24. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 71/170 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution,

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions, including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 69/147 and 71/170 and the present resolution, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

27. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls at its seventy-fifth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution IV
Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation

The *General Assembly*,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012, 68/146 of 18 December 2013, 69/150 of 18 December 2014, and 71/168 of 19 December 2016, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007,[1] 52/2 of 7 March 2008[2] and 54/7 of 12 March 2010[3] and Human Rights Council resolutions 27/22 of 26 September 2014,[4] 32/21 of 1 July 2016[5] and 38/6 of 2 July 2018[6] and all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[7] and noting that 2018 marks its seventieth anniversary,

Reaffirming also that the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and all relevant conventions, together with the optional protocols thereto, as appropriate, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming further the Beijing Declaration[10] and Platform for Action,[11] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[12] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[13] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[14] and their 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[15] and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit[16] and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", and those made in the outcome document of the United Nations

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[*] On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7* (E/2007/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[2] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[3] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1 and Corrs.1 and 2), chap. IV, sect. A.

[5] Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[6] Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/73/53), chap. VI, sect. A.

[7] Resolution 217 A (III).

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[11] Ibid., annex II.

[12] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[13] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[14] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[15] Resolution 55/2.

[16] See resolution 60/1.

summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[17]

Recognizing the role of regional and subregional instruments and mechanisms in the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation, where they exist,

Recalling Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the elimination and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation constitutes irreparable, irreversible harm and an act of violence against women and girls that impairs and undermines the enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing also that it affects many women and girls who are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world, which is an impediment to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice constituting a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, that it has no documented health benefits, that it may give rise to possible adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes and may increase vulnerability to hepatitis C, tetanus, sepsis, urine retention and ulceration, as well as to fatal consequences for the mother and child, and that the elimination of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including women and men, girls and boys, families, communities, religious leaders and local community and traditional leaders,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation is inherently linked to deep-rooted harmful stereotypes, negative social norms, perceptions and customs on the part of both women and men that threaten the physical and psychological integrity of women and girls, and that are obstacles to their full enjoyment of human rights, and acknowledging in this regard that awareness-raising is critical,

Welcoming the increased national, regional and international efforts and the political commitment at the highest levels which are critical to successfully eradicating female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned that the practice of female genital mutilation persists in all parts of the world and that new methods, such as its medicalization and cross-border practice, are emerging,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory and stereotypical attitudes and behaviours, on the part of both women and men, have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls, and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Stressing that men and boys play an important role in the acceleration of progress in preventing and eliminating harmful practices such as female genital mutilation by being agents of change,

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[17] Resolution 70/1.

Recognizing that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the Global Database on Violence against Women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilation,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilation, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities,[18] announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation, as well as the implementation of its resolution 71/168,

Underscoring the importance of eliminating female genital mutilation as a contribution to the implementation of the range of Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 5.3,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[19]

Deeply concerned that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[8] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9] as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[20] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[13] the Beijing Platform for Action[11] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[12] and of the special session of the General Assembly on children;[21]

2. *Calls upon* States to place a stronger focus on the development and implementation of comprehensive prevention strategies, including the intensification of educational campaigns, awareness-raising and formal and non-formal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, including government officials, law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, parliamentarians and health-care providers, practitioners, civil society, the private sector, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, legal guardians, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular female genital

[18] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Development Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women and World Health Organization.

[19] A/73/266.

[20] Resolution 48/104.

[21] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

mutilation, that negatively affect women and girls, and emphasizes the importance of adopting a non-stigmatization approach in all prevention interventions;

3. *Also calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach and engage the general public, especially relevant professionals, in particular school teachers, families, communities, civil society representatives, including women's and girl-led organizations and religious and traditional leaders, including through the traditional and non-traditional media, featuring television and radio discussions and information and communications technology, about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and the fact that this practice still exists and about national and international levels of support for the elimination of female genital mutilation, with a view to helping to change existing negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that condone and justify gender inequality, all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation;

4. *Further calls upon* States to provide the necessary resources to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and women and boys and men to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilation, to engage families, local community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and civil society and to provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social norms and practices, and calls upon the international community to support States in these efforts;

5. *Urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilation, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those who are at risk in order to assist them, including by developing social, legal and psychological support services and care and appropriate remedies, and to ensure access to health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in order to improve their health and well-being;

6. *Also urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, to take all necessary measures, including through educational campaigns and by enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation, to protect women and girls from this act of violence, to hold perpetrators to account and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels, where applicable, in order to monitor progress;

7. *Calls upon* States to address the medicalization of female genital mutilation and to encourage professional associations and trade unions of health service providers to adopt internal disciplinary rules prohibiting their members from engaging in the harmful practice of female genital mutilation;

8. *Urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes, sensitive to the needs of women and girls, by reviewing and revising, as appropriate, school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance of violence against girls or of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, placing special emphasis on education about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

9. *Also urges* States to ensure that the protection of and provision of support to women and girls subject to, or at risk of, female genital mutilation are an integral part of policies and programmes that address the practice, and to provide women and girls with coordinated, specialized, accessible and quality multisectoral prevention and response, including education, as well as legal, psychological, health-care and social services, provided by qualified personnel, consistent with the guidelines of medical ethics;

10. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilation are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and that they include projected timelines for goals and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all relevant stakeholders and promote their participation, including the participation of affected women and girls, practising communities and non-governmental organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of such plans and strategies;

11. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee and migrant women and girls, their families and their communities in order to protect women and girls everywhere from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

12. *Also urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach, that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality, in providing education and training to families, local community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation;

13. *Further urges* States to identify and allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation, in particular measures involving information and communications technologies to facilitate learning and knowledge-sharing;

14. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to all women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilation and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe that women or girls are at risk;

15. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilation, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilation in community-based initiatives for the elimination of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification and the provision by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilation;

17. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a third phase of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population

Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, which will run until 2020, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilation;

18. *Stresses* that progress has been made in eliminating female genital mutilation in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement that female genital mutilation is to be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

19. *Encourages* men and boys to take an active part and to become strategic partners of women and girls and their allies in efforts, including through intergenerational dialogue, to eliminate violence, discrimination and harmful practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

20. *Calls upon States* to engage key stakeholders, in a coordinated manner, including various sectors of government and civil society organizations, along with the support, upon request, of United Nations entities, in developing a multidisciplinary approach to both preventing and responding to female genital mutilation and to adopt laws and policies, where appropriate, providing high-quality, multi-sectoral interventions for girls and women who have been subject to female genital mutilation, as well as robust prevention strategies, taking into consideration those girls and women who are most vulnerable;

21. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, civil society and all stakeholders to continue to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and to use the day to enhance awareness raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilation;

22. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data, where appropriate, and to collaborate with existing data collection systems, which are crucial for evidence-based legal and policy development, programme design and implementation and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

23. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on female genital mutilation, which is underdocumented and underreported, to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating this practice and to reinforce the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation at the subregional, regional and global levels;

24. *Urges* the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, in order, inter alia, to inform policy and programming, as well as to monitor progress in the elimination of female genital mutilation;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and

promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

26. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fifth session, an in-depth, multidisciplinary, evidence-based report, with accurate and updated data, an analysis of root causes, progress made to date, challenges and needs and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice, on the basis of updated information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

38. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the item "Advancement of women"

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following documents under the item "Advancement of women":

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-seventh, sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;[2]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.[3]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/73/38).
[2] A/73/294.
[3] A/73/301.